



H.R. 5492 – TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION TO CONSTRUCT A GREENHOUSE FACILITY AT ITS MUSEUM SUPPORT FACILITY IN SUITLAND, MARYLAND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5492 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Doris Matsui (D-CA) on February 26, 2008. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, but was never considered.

H.R. 5492 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on March 11, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 5492 authorizes the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institute to construct a greenhouse facility at its museum support facility in Suitland, Maryland. The greenhouse will provide for the horticultural maintenance and preservation of the orchid collection held in trust by the Smithsonian Institution. The bill authorizes \$12,000,000 to be appropriated to carry out the construction.

BACKGROUND

The Smithsonian Institution hosts an annual orchid exhibit, cosponsored by the U.S. Botanic Garden and the Smithsonian Institution's Horticulture Services Division. The exhibit features hundreds of orchids, including rare and endangered species of the flower.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing H.R. 5492 would increase outlays by \$12 million over the 2009-2013 period.

STAFF CONTACT

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